**United Arab Emirates**

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| **Facts & Figures** |
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| **President:** Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed al-Nahyan (2004)  **Prime Minister:** Sheikh Muhammad ibn Rashid al-Maktoum (2006)  **Total area:** 83,600 sq km  **Population (2009 est.):** 4,798,491 (growth rate: 3.7%); birth rate: 16.0/1000; infant mortality rate: 12.7/1000; life expectancy: 76.1; density per sq mi: 82  [**Capital (2003 est.):**](http://www.infoplease.com/cgi-bin/id/A0855603) Abu Dhabi, 539,800  **Largest city:** Dubai, 1,511,700 (metro. area), 906,100 (city proper)  **Monetary unit:** U.A.E. dirham |

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**Geography**

The United Arab Emirates, in the eastern part of the Arabian Peninsula, extends along part of the Gulf of Oman and the southern coast of the Persian Gulf. The nation is the size of Maine. Its neighbors are Saudi Arabia to the west and south, Qatar to the north, and Oman to the east. Most of the land is barren and sandy.

**Government**

Federation formed in 1971 by seven emirates known as the Trucial States—Abu Dhabi (the largest), Dubai, Sharjah, Ajman, Fujairah, Ras al-Khaimah, and Umm al-Qaiwain. In addition to a federal president and prime minister, each emirate has a separate ruler who oversees the local government.